

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NEA-10 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 AEC-11 AECE-00 ACDA-19

IO-14 DRC-01 /156 W

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O P 181734Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1845

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06193

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD AND SECRETARY  
SCHLESINGER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, OVIP

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF SCHLESINGER VISIT

1. THE GERMAN NATIONAL PRESS GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE ON  
APRIL L8 TO SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S VISIT THE DAY BEFORE  
WITH DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER AT THE FUERSTENFELDBRUCK  
AIRFIELD. THE BONN GENERAL ANZEIGER, FOR INSTANCE, RAN  
A FRONT PAGE STORY ABOUT THE MEETING UNDER THE HEADLINE  
"REDUCTION OF U.S. TROOPS ONLY AFTER SUCCESSFUL MBFR  
NEGOTIATIONS...SCHLESINGER AND LEBER STRESS EFFECTIVE-  
NESS OF NATO." OTHER HEADLINES REFLECTED GERMAN CONCERN  
ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF CONTINUED PRESENCE OF U.S.  
TROOPS. SOME WERE: "SCHLESINGER: NO PLANS FOR TROOP  
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WITHDRAWAL: (DIE WELT); "SCHLESINGER: AMERICA WANTS NO

WEAKENING OF ALLIANCE" (FAZ); "SCHLESINGER AND LEBER IN MUNICH: U.S. WILL NOT WITHDRAW TROOPS UNILATERALLY" (NEUE RHEIN ZEITUNG); "LEBER: NATO FUNCTIONING FULLY--SCHLESINGER DENIES INTENTION TO WITHDRAW AMERICAN COMBAT TROOPS FROM EUROPE" (SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG); "MBFR DISCUSSIONS IN VIENNA PROCEEDING WELL--SCHLESINGER: CALLS OF U.S. SENATORS UNREALISTIC" (WESTDEUTSCHE ALLGEMEINE).

2. PRACTICALLY ALL PRESS ARTICLES FOCUSED FIRST ON THE TROOP REDUCTION ISSUE, AND GAVE VARYING EMPHASIS TO OTHER MATTERS WHICH WERE RAISED IN THE JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE. THE INFLUENTIAL FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE'S REVIEW OF THE MEETING WAS TYPICAL OF MOST OF THE PRESS COVERAGE. IT REPORTED: "SCHLESINGER AND LEBER AGREED THAT THE MILITARY SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE IS INTACT AND FUNCTIONING....SCHLESINGER SAID WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS FROM EUROPE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION AS LONG AS THE MBFR DISCUSSIONS IN VIENNA DO NOT PRODUCE POSITIVE RESULTS. THERE IS AGREEMENT ON THIS AMONG POLITICAL LEADERS IN THE U.S. AND IN THE WESTERN ALLIANCE. THE DECISIVE POINT OF SCHLESINGER'S DISCUSSION WITH LEBER OBVIOUSLY WAS THE QUESTION OF HOW THE NATO PARTNERS, ESPECIALLY THE U. S. AND THE FRG, CAN JOINTLY KEEP THE ALLIANCE'S SPECTRUM OF STRATEGIC AND TACTICAL FORCES IN THE NUCLEAR AS WELL AS IN THE CONVENTIONAL FIELD SO FLEXIBLE AS TO ENABLE THE ALLIANCE TO MEET ITS DEFENSE TASK ALSO IN THE COMING 25 YEARS. AFTER MAKING AN ATTEMPT AT RECONSIDERING AMERICA'S ROLE OF

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1846  
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG IMMEDIATE

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MAINTAINING NUCLEAR DETERRENCE IN THE STRATEGIC FIELD,  
THE U.S.--AS INDICATED BY SCHLESINGER'S INITIATIVE AND  
BY HIS VISIT TO THE FRG--IS BECOMING ACTIVE NOW ALSO IN  
THE CONVENTIONAL FIELD. A DECISIVE ROLE IN  
SCHLESINGER'S EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH LEBER PRESUMABLY  
WAS THE QUESTION WHETHER, IN VIEW OF CONTINUING ARMAMENT  
EFFORTS BY THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES, WESTERN COUNTRIES  
WILL BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN THE CREDIBILITY OF THE CAPACITY  
TO WARD OFF AN ATTACK WITH CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS IN-  
EUROPE WITH CORRESPONDING WEAPONS. POINTING IN THIS  
DIRECTION, SCHLESINGER EMPHASIZED THAT THE WEST'S  
ARSENALS MUST BE SUCH AS TO KEEP THE RISK OF MILITARY  
CONFLICT LEADING TO THE COMBINED POSSIBILITY OF USING  
STRATEGIC AND TACTICAL WEAPONS AS LOW AS POSSIBLE.  
SCHLESINGER LEFT NO DOUBT ABOUT AMERICA'S BASIC  
READINESS NOT TO WEAKEN THE FIGHTING POWER OF THE  
ALLIANCE IN WESTERN EUROPE AS LONG AS THERE ARE NO  
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BILATERAL AGREEMENTS (ON FORCE REDUCTIONS) WITH EAST  
BLOC COUNTRIES. HE SAW NO CONTRADICTION BETWEEN THIS  
POSITION AND CONTINUING AMERICAN EFFORTS AT TROOP  
RATIONALIZATION BY MEANS OF REDUCING SUPPORT UNITS. ON  
THIS MATTER, SCHLESINGER SAID, HE WILL KEEP IN GOOD  
CONTACT WITH WEST EUROPEAN ALLIES. THE PENTAGON WILL  
NOT DO ANYTHING IN THIS MATTER THAT IS NOT APPROVED BY  
ITS ALLIES. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT  
SUPPORT INSTALLATIONS FOR U.S. UNITS IN WESTERN EUROPE  
FALL SHORT OF MEETING REQUIREMENTS RATHER THAN EXCEEDING  
THEM."  
HILLENBRAND

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**TAGS:** MILI, OVIP, (SCHLESINGER, JAMES)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005